

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة منشورة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"

Blast kills 2 children in West Bank

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Arab children were killed and three others wounded in an explosion in their home near Ramallah on the Israeli-occupied West Bank Tuesday, security sources said. The dead youngsters were eight and 12 years old. The cause of the blast was not yet known, but it was thought it might have been from explosives or ammunition hidden in the building, the sources said. The sources said the children had lit a fire inside their house in Cantania village to get warm when an explosion ripped through the building.

PLO: Reagan plan is incomplete

TUNIS (R) — The Reagan plan for the Middle East is "incomplete" but the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) does not reject it, a spokesman for the PLO told Reuters Tuesday. He said the PLO considers the Reagan plan as "an incomplete initiative which demands to be completed by recognition of the PLO, the only organisation representing the Palestinian people, and by the achievement of an independent Palestinian state." The source said this position was contained in the statement made by Khaled Al Fakhri, chairman of the Palestinian National Council, after a meeting of the council and in which he said: "The Reagan plan does not consider the real interests of the Palestinian people."

Volume 7 Number 2127

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1, 1982 — SAFAR 16, 1403

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

New joint committee vows to liberate occupied lands

By Lamis Andoni and Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee, which was formed Monday has the dedicated aim of formulating a joint plan to work for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories.

The formation of the plan came as a result of the two-day talks between His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

A Palestinian member of the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee told the Jordan Times that although Mr. Arafat left Jordan Tuesday, the PLO members of the newly-formed committee stayed back in Jordan to resume the work of the committee and to prepare for another Jordanian-Palestinian summit meeting that is expected to be held Dec. 11.

Dr. Nabil Sha'ath, who is also a

member of the Palestinian National Council said that the results of the talks which concluded Monday in Amman constitute "a new advanced step in the realm of Palestinian-Jordanian relations" which culminated in the formation of the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee that will outline a joint political strategy and an in-depth study on details of the suggested Jordanian-Palestinian confederation after liberating the Israeli-occupied territories.

Dr. Sha'ath stressed that the new committee is by "no means a substitute" for the joint

Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for Supporting the Steadfastness of the people in the occupied territories.

The new committee will outline a plan in the framework of the Fez Arab summit proposals, Dr. Sha'ath added.

"We have chosen to work on the basis of the Arab peace plan," he said.

Concerning President Reagan's plan, Dr. Sha'ath said that the PLO agrees with the American demand for withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories, the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and calls to freeze the building of Israeli settlements.

"But we utterly reject the vagueness of the Reagan plan regarding the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, to establish an independent Palestinian state, and the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people," he said.

Dr. Sha'ath described the U.S. demand that the PLO should recognise Israel as a condition for a U.S.-PLO dialogue as "unfair," and affirmed the PLO's rejection of such conditions.

In regard to the decision of the seven-member Arab League committee to cancel its visit to Britain, Dr. Sha'ath said: "From now on, the seven-member Arab League committee will refuse to visit any country that rejects the acceptance of the PLO representative as a member of the delegation."

But he pointed out that the PLO welcomes the formation of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation which includes a Palestinian member authorised by the PLO "as long as it is clearly agreed that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

"And this is the basis of Jordanian-Palestinian relations," he added.

King inaugurates fertiliser complex

AQABA (Peira) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday inaugurated here the industrial complex of the Jordan Fertiliser Industries Company (JFIC) and laid the foundation stone for the complex's mosque. The King inspected the different sections of the complex and was acquainted with the various phases covered in the process of production and export.

President of the National Planning Council (NPC) and Chairman of the Board of Directors of JFIC Hanna Odeh said in a speech at the inauguration ceremony that King Hussein laid the foundation stone five years ago to the fertiliser industries projects as part of several other vital development projects which His Majesty announced the beginning of implementation during Jordan's celebrations of the anniversary of his Silver Jubilee.

Dr. Odeh said this area is full of activity and is undergoing a process of great development and construction. He said south of the fertiliser plant, there is the potash warehouses, and north of it, there is the timber industries complex and the Aqaba thermal power station whose implementation will begin soon to provide power to the various parts of the country.

Dr. Odeh said the inauguration of this large industrial complex "is a new and strong brick to be added to the structure of our national economy. It transforms Jordan from a country which purely produces raw materials to an industrial and exporting country. It is also a qualitative step in the exploitation of the potash and phosphates."

"When the fertilisers and potash projects are completed and with the increased mining capacity of the phosphate raw materials, Jordan would be completing the basic structure of an integrated fertiliser industry, including the production of the various types of ordinary and compound fertilisers and their byproducts," Dr. Odeh added.

The capital of the JFIC is JD 55 million divided into shares, of which 26 per cent is owned by the

Jordanian government and the rest by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Arab Mining Company, the Arab company for petroleum investments, the Jordanian Pension Fund, the University of Jordan and the Yarmouk University investment funds, the Islamic Bank, the Postal Savings Fund, the Industrial Development Bank, the Arab Bank and Jordanian and Arab citizens.

The industrial complex will provide Jordan with an annual national income of 170 million U.S. dollars of foreign currency.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the prime minister, the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, the chief of the Royal Court, the court minister, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, the ministers, members of the National Consultative Council (NCC), several Arab and foreign ambassadors in Amman, civil and military officials, and representatives of several Jordanian, Arab and international companies which participated in the implementation of the project.

Jordan joins big four, impact on Aqaba environment, page 5

CAEU meetings to start today

AMMAN (Petra) — The meetings of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) deputy permanent representatives committee will begin at the CAEU general secretariat on Wednesday. During its two-day meetings, the committee will discuss the report of the CAEU secretary-general on the follow-up for the implementation of the decisions of the CAEU's previous sessions and will prepare the agenda of the 39th session of the CAEU which will begin on Dec. 5.

Syrian shells hit Israeli position in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Shells were fired from Syrian-controlled territory Tuesday at an Israeli army position near Kfar Klok, on the eastern sector of the Lebanon front, an Israeli army spokesman said. There were no casualties and the fire was returned, the spokesman said. It was the first instance of firing in this sector for some days.

Egypt threatens Israel with legal action over Taba

CAIRO (R) — Egypt Tuesday threatened legal action over a disputed area of Sinai where Israel has built a luxury hotel and protested at the alleged presence of what it called "military elements" there. Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Al said in a letter to his Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Shamir that Egypt retained the right to take whatever legal action it deemed necessary to protect its rights as provided for in an agreement between the two countries and the United States on April 25. The agreement declared the coastal strip in the gulf of Aqaba a no-man's-land, pending agreement on its final status. The opening of the multi-million-dollar hotel in Taba earlier this month led to accusations here that Israel had violated the agreement by attempting to impose a de facto situation in the area.

Kuwait refuses to sign Gulf security agreement

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has refused to sign a joint security agreement with its Gulf allies because it would violate the country's sovereignty and constitution. Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said Tuesday. Heads of state of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council at a summit conference this month in Bahrain agreed to sign it. Sheikh Sabah had earlier been asked to sign it. Sheikh Sabah had earlier been asked to sign it. Sheikh Sabah had earlier been asked to sign it.

Other's milk saves porter's eye

ARARE (R) — Kenneth Hamon, spat in the eye by a venomous cobra, owes his sight to a bit of mother's milk, Zimbabwe's Herald newspaper reported Tuesday. It quoted Hamon as saying the snake had got on his truck near Bulawayo then sed himself up "and spat in my eye" as some men and women stood nearby. "One of the men took me and pushed me over his wife who was breast-feeding a baby and told her to squirt her milk into my eyes," he said. Doctors told him this probably saved sight and, though still partly blind in one eye, he should regain vision. Wildlife expert Vivison said milk was a recognised antidote to neurotoxic venom.

Arafat leaves Amman after extensive talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat Tuesday left Amman at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Hussein and Jordanian officials.

"Discussions during the meetings covered all the developments involving the Palestinian issue in light of the Fez summit resolutions and the Arab action on the international level represented in the visits of the Arab League seven-member committee to the permanent member states of the United Nations Security Council."

King Hussein and Mr. Arafat also discussed the results of the meetings which the committee had with French President Fran-

cois Mitterrand and the programme for its action in the next phase, including its visits to the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China to explain the Arab peace plan.

They also discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories, future relations between Jordan and the PLO, based on the strong cohesion between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

In a statement to newsmen Monday Mr. Arafat said, he agreed with King Hussein on the continuation of meetings and consultations because "from our point of view, the Jordanian-Palestinian talks basically deal with the confederal relationships."

Mr. Arafat said: "We are con-

sidering the Reagan plan within the framework of our assessment of the international situation. The Reagan plan is like the initiative of the late Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, the French peace initiative and the Arab peace plan. We are in agreement on the resolutions of the Fez summit conference, and nothing should prevent us from considering all plans and initiatives."

"The PLO future plan is to continue the struggle to establish the Palestinian state and to discuss all the options available, because the Palestinian revolution is not only a gun, but it is also a political, diplomatic, information, popular and military action."

Asked about a formula for dia-

logue with Washington and the basis of this formula, Mr. Arafat said: "Americans have categorically refused any formula for dialogue with the PLO. Moreover, they overlook the crux of the struggle in the Middle East, namely the Palestinian issue. Here I say there can be no solution, no stability, no security and no peace by bypassing the Palestinian rights. All what we want from the Americans to do is to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people."

Answering a question about the recognition of Israel, Mr. Arafat said: "I feel this question is unfair. Should we ask the vanquished to recognise the aggressor or is it the aggressor that should recognise the vanquished?"

Parcel bomb injures Thatcher's aide

LONDON (R) — A package burst into flames inside British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's London residence, 10 Downing Street, Tuesday slightly injuring an official who was opening it, police said.

Mrs. Thatcher was in her study in another part of the building at the time and was not involved, a spokesman for the prime minister said.

The package, a padded envelope of the sort used to send fragile articles, had already been identified as being suspicious and was being opened by an official when it ignited, sources at the prime minister's office said.

The official sustained superficial scorching to his face and hair and was taken to hospital for medical checks.

Police sources said the package was an incendiary device with a

gunpowder base designed to ignite rather than to explode.

A week ago, a similar package addressed to Mrs. Thatcher's Industry Secretary, Patrick Jenkin, was intercepted and defused by bomb disposal experts.

The Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) telephoned a radio station in Belfast to claim responsibility for sending the package.

The INLA planted a bomb that killed British Member of Parliament Airey Neave outside the House of Commons in 1979.

INLA is a left-wing guerrilla group which broke away from the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is also fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

A hospital spokesman said later that the injured man had been discharged after treatment for superficial burns to his face.

Mubarak visits India aiming to promote Mideast peace proposals

NEW DELHI (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in India Tuesday night for a two-day visit expected to concentrate on Franco-Egyptian Middle East peace proposals and the non-aligned summit conference to be held here next year.

Mr. Mubarak, on his first visit to Asia since taking office just over a year ago, arrived only a few hours after French President Francois Mitterrand left New Delhi for southern India.

The Egyptian leader was met at the airport by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Zail Singh, who was giving a banquet Tuesday night in his honour.

He made no statement on arrival and was whisked away with his Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali in a cavalcade of cars.

An Egyptian embassy spokesman denied there was any direct connection between Mr. Mubarak's visit and that of Mr. Mitterrand, who was in Cairo before going to Delhi.

The French president, winding up his four-day stay, was in South India Tuesday before leaving for home.

Joint Franco-Egyptian proposals for a Middle East settlement were expected to feature prominently in talks between Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Mubarak Wednesday, an Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman told reporters.

At a press conference Monday, Mr. Mitterrand dismissed suggestions that France and Egypt wanted to associate India with their joint proposals. But he said he would welcome India's support for the Franco-Egyptian initiative.

The proposals of France and Egypt go beyond a plan announced by President Reagan by calling for a separate Palestinian state. President Reagan's plan, announced in September, suggested an autonomous Palestinian entity linked to Jordan.

India supports the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Mrs. Gandhi met PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Moscow after the

funeral of Leonid Brezhnev. Arab diplomatic sources said, India has only consular relations with Israel. Egypt is also hoping to reassert itself as a leading member of the Non-Aligned Movement, which holds its next conference here in March.

Egypt narrowly escaped expulsion from the 97-member movement, which it helped to found, after it was accused of violating the group's principles by signing a separate peace treaty with Israel.

Egyptian sources considered Mr. Mubarak's trip as part of the process of trying to re-establish friendly links with the Third World and its Arab critics following the dispute over the peace treaty.

Mrs. Gandhi said in an interview published in Cairo Tuesday that she hoped for better relations with Egypt.

In an interview issued by the official Middle East News Agency (MENA), Mrs. Gandhi said: "I hope relations between Egypt and India would be better than they were in the past."

'Stubborn' Thatcher responsible for U.K. stand towards Arabs

RABAT (R) — Britain's attitude towards the Arab League is a result of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's "personal stubbornness" and American pressure, according to a Palestinian leader here.

Hani Al Hassan, a leading member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Al Fatah central committee commented at a news conference here Monday night on the decision by an Arab League delegation to cancel a visit to London.

The proposed meeting with Mrs. Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Francis Pym, set for Wednesday and Thursday, was called off last week because Britain refused to accept a PLO representative as a delegation member, sources said. A British government spokesman said on Monday the visit had been postponed, not cancelled.

Mr. Al Hassan, who is chairman of the Palestine National Council's Foreign Relations Commission, said Mrs. Thatcher was "well-known for her personal stubbornness" and her position regarding the mission was "the result

of American pressures." He also blamed "electoralist considerations, since the Conservative Party is currently going through a dangerous phase that could threaten its electoral future."

"Mrs. Thatcher wants to take over the Middle East dossier from the Foreign Office, as she has already done in several other cases," Mr. Al Hassan said.

As chairman of the seven-member Arab League committee set up to promote a Middle East peace plan, Morocco rejected as "offensive" a British demand that its members make a public statement "denouncing all forms of terrorism."

The committee is next scheduled to visit Moscow and Peking.

Meanwhile in London British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym Tuesday denounced the creation of new Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories as a profound disservice to the cause of peace.

Mr. Pym made no reference to an Arab League decision to call off a visit to London this week.

Spain's new leader to outline Socialist government programme

MADRID (R) — Prime Minister-elect Felipe Gonzalez was due to outline the programme for Spain's first Socialist government Tuesday following a renewed pledge that his administration will freeze Spanish integration into NATO.

The pledge on NATO was made by Foreign Minister-designate Fernando Moran in an interview in which he reaffirmed plans to hold a referendum on continued Spanish membership of the alliance.

The NATO issue was almost certain to figure in the two-hour speech that Mr. Gonzalez was delivering to Congress, the lower house of the Spanish Cortes, to mark the formal beginning of his government.

Mr. Gonzalez, who led his Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) to

outright victory in general elections last month, was due to take over as prime minister following a debate on his speech and a vote of confidence on Wednesday or Thursday.

The vote was set to be a formality with the Socialists controlling 202 of the 350 Congress seats.

The Socialist leader was expected to concentrate in his address on measures to extricate Spain from a serious economic crisis, marked by high inflation and unemployment and a critically large public sector debt.

The Socialists are planning to create 800,000 new jobs during their four-year term and aim to cut inflation from 14 to eight per cent.

Their foreign policy goals include joining the European Community, regaining Spanish sov-

ereignty over the British colony of Gibraltar and expanding relations with Latin America.

Mr. Moran said the Socialists favoured reopening the frontier between Spain and Gibraltar. It was closed in 1969 by the late dictator General Franco.

He said the border closure had alienated the Gibraltarians from Spain.

Mr. Moran also said the Socialists hoped to negotiate modifications in a defence treaty with the United States and that it appeared Washington would agree to them. The treaty gives the Americans base facilities in exchange for defence guarantees.

The Socialists, who have never governed Spain alone, were taking power just seven years after the death of Franco and the end of his right-wing dictatorship.

Spain was ruled by three centre-right governments following Franco's death. The left was last in power in 1936, when the civil war which brought Franco to power erupted.

In Paris, Mr. Moran was quoted Tuesday as saying the new government would seek to harmonise Spanish interests with those of the West without getting locked into superpower politics.

In an interview with the Quotidien De Paris newspaper, Mr. Moran said: "We are part of the West and we must recognise obligations contracted by the previous government."

But he added: "We want sufficient autonomy within the Western system so that we do not become satellites...."

"Certainly we are pro-European but that doesn't mean we feel obli-

gated to be part of NATO's military organisation."

According to the paper, the foreign minister-designate said there was a contradiction between internal moderation and "participating in confrontational military blocs abroad."

He said Spain was well placed to stand aside from the superpowers because of its geographical position and its links with Latin American and Arab countries.

Spain's military accords with the U.S. were important for East-West balance and would be maintained, though some recent agreements would have to be "corrected" — but not renegotiated — because they linked Spain to NATO's military structure, Mr. Moran was reported as saying.

PICTURES

Hollywood-style gangsters replace Montreal bank robbers

By Paul Majumdar
Reporter

MONTREAL — Montreal is no longer bank robbery capital of North America and its Hollywood-style gangsters have been replaced by small time criminals scrambling to finance drug deals.

Montreal bank robbers once trained an anti-aircraft gun on an armoured van to get the driver to open up. Masked gangsters wielding machine guns would burst into banks firing wildly before fleeing with thousands of dollars in cash.

Today's bank robber is a nervous teenager who hides a revolver under his jacket and waits in line with the rest of the customers. He hands over a hold-up note and scurries off with a fistful of dollars the average is 1,500 — without most people even realising a robbery has been committed.

That is the profile painted by Captain Gilles Forgues, head of the police hold-up squad in a city where the number of bank robberies has been almost halved in a year. Montreal now runs third in the "bank stakes", behind Los

Angeles and New York.

"The number of bank robberies has dropped from 808 last year to 450 this year and we have been solving 63 per cent of them," he said.

He said the professionals in Montreal's underworld had deserted the once profitable robbing of banks and moved into the big money that organised crime can now make from pushing hard drugs on a giant scale.

"Today's bank robber is aged 17-25. He's usually unemployed and worked his way up by stealing

the odd car, robbing a drugstore or supermarket before attempting a bank," he said.

"Robbing a bank is the absolute summit for them — that makes them a real bandit. Ninety-nine per cent of them want the money to buy drugs or set up as peddlers on a small scale," he added.

They are not that violent. Most are armed with a revolver or sawn-off shotgun but few use their weapons. A bank teller was shot dead in a hold-up last year, but that was the first time anybody had been killed in 25 years, Capt.

Forgues said.

Why then has this Canadian city been so successful in bringing down the bank robbery rate?

Captain Forgues points to his 50-man hold-up squad as a prime reason because it is centralised, specialises in handling bank robberies and can collate all material from informers.

"We also work in close collaboration with three special prosecutors (appointed by Quebec's attorney-general) who deal exclusively in bank robbery cases. That system, which was instituted two years ago, works very well,"

he said.

Convicted Montreal bank robbers receive, on average, three-year sentences, but Capt. Forgues complained: "that's not enough. The minimum should be five years. That might make a kid of 20 think again — it's a long time for him."

He was quick to praise the banks who were bombed for so long but have now tightened security with more guards, sophisticated detection equipment and rewards for informers.

The bankers themselves certainly are delighted with the sta-

tistics. Michael Ballard, security director for the Canadian Bankers Association, said: "Capt. Forgues can be praised as much as you like."

"Montreal had been the bank robbery capital of North America and accounted for half of all the bank robberies in Canada," he noted.

"But the field has now been abandoned to the lower class of bandit. We have a different kind of robber than we had 20 or 30 years ago."

"We no longer get the so-called Montreal-style robberies with

masks, heavy weapons and hoods. They were always carried out in movie-style fashion with a great flair for the dramatic," he said.

"You don't argue with an anti-aircraft gun parked in the back of a pick-up truck. They also used to throw marbles down in front of bank messengers so they wouldn't chase after them," he recalled.

"Today half the robbers are solo. Young kids wait in line and often only the teller he talks to know there has been a robbery. There's a lot less terror nowadays," he said. Mr. Ballard criticised legal circles for letting the whole disastrous situation drag on so long.

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Jordan joins phosphate's big four

By Margi Bryant
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Phosphate-bearing rocks are one of Jordan's few valuable natural resources. "When the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company (JFI) was set up seven years ago, says the company's general manager, Dr. Mahmoud Mardi, "its aim was to increase the value of that resource by producing refined phosphate-based fertiliser for export."

Dr. Mardi, who has masterminded the project from its inception, says the JFI factory complex in Aqaba, officially opened yesterday, will bring in a revenue of \$150-200 million a year at current market prices. But, he explained, the world market price of phosphate products rises and falls in regular cycles. At the moment it is at a low of \$190 a tonne. When it climbs again, the revenue from the Aqaba factory will be nearer \$300 million a year.

The JFI factory is one of the largest single stream phosphate plants in the world. At full capacity it will produce an annual 740,000 tonnes of diammonium phosphate (DAP) and 185,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid. It can also produce two grades of mono-ammonium phosphate (MAP).

These compounds are used all over the world as agricultural fertilisers. "This means we are helping to increase the world's capacity to produce food, as well as helping Jordan's economy," Dr. Mardi told the Jordan Times.

The factory complex lies 17 kilometres south of Aqaba, near the Saudi border, and covers a site of 3,500 dunams leased from the government. The complex includes two units for sulphuric acid each producing 1,800 tonnes a day; one unit for phosphoric acid producing 1,250 tonnes a day; two units for fertiliser granulation each producing 1,200 tonnes a day of either DAP or MAP; two bagging units with a capacity of 30 tonnes per hour; an aluminium fluoride plant which will use up and convert the by-product fluosilicic acid; an export/import terminal which will be used by the Arab Potash Company as well as JFI; warehouses and a thermal power station.

The entire complex cost around JD 165 million. "The cost was the main reason why it took so long to bring the factory into being," Dr. Mardi told the Jordan Times. Eventually some JD 100 million was secured in loans, either through the government or with its guarantee. However, only about JD 18 million had to be obtained as straight commercial loans, and this was from European banks.

The rest of the finance came in the form of soft or long-term loans, with repayment periods ranging from 10 to 25 years. These included 2.9 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$10 million) from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, \$5 million from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, 1.5 million Iraqi dinars (\$2.6 million) from the Iraq Fund for External Development, \$10 million from the Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation.

The factory starts full-scale operations early next year. Jordan will become one of the world's top four producers of phosphate-based fertiliser, along with the United States, South Korea and Tunisia. "This output calls for a large-scale marketing operation," JFI's senior marketing officer Mr. Suhail Musleh told the Jordan Times, "and we don't yet have the expertise or experience to do this by ourselves."

The company has therefore leased out marketing rights for a three-year period to two foreign firms — Mitsubishi of Japan, which will market 40 per cent of the factory's DAP output in Asia, and Woodward & Dickerson of the USA, which will market 35 per cent of the output in Europe, Africa and the Americas. The remaining 25 per cent will be handled by JFI itself, which is free to operate anywhere in the world.

The foreign companies have contracted to provide on-the-job training to JFI staff so they can gradually take over the marketing operation themselves. During the trial run since May this year, JFI have actually exported 70,000 tonnes of fertiliser to buyers in Italy and India.

Around one or two per cent of the factory's output — or between 9,000 and 15,000 tonnes a year —

is expected to be sold in Jordan. This is about half Jordan's total fertiliser imports, which include both phosphate-based and nitrogen-based products. "We would like to see total import substitution for phosphate-based fertilisers," said Mr. Musleh, and added that he is currently negotiating with the organisations which supply and distribute fertilisers in Jordan, mainly the Jordan Co-operative Organisation (JCO) and the Jordan Valley Farmers' Association (JVFA).

Substantial reserves

The factory will use around 1.3 million tonnes of rock phosphate a year, from the El Hassa mines which lie 200 kilometres to the north. "Jordan's present known reserves of phosphate will keep the factory going for 30 to 40

years," says Dr. Mardi. "But exploration by the Natural Resources Authority and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company is going on all the time, and it's likely that new deposits will be discovered by then."

The known reserves include deposits at Shiddayn, south east of Ma'an, which were discovered in 1976 and have not yet been mined. A prefeasibility study is due to be completed next March, and will be followed by a full feasibility study with a view to commercial exploitation by 1990.

The two other main raw materials used in the production process — sulphur and ammonia — will be imported, largely from Arab countries.

Dr. Mardi sees the fertiliser factory as a much-needed spearhead of economic development in Aqaba and the southern region of

Jordan. But plans are also underway to develop Aqaba as a major tourist centre, and some observers feel that the demands of tourism and industry may clash. Different sections of the coast have been allocated to each type of development, but environmentalists say pollution is no respecter of boundaries, and all agree that industrial effluents could destroy the area's prime tourist attraction, the coral reef.

"The main potentially harmful by-product of the factory is fluosilicic acid," public relations officer Mr. Kailani told the Jordan Times, "and we are taking steps to ensure it doesn't cause pollution. The Swiss company Alu-Suisse are building, as part of the factory complex, a plant to convert fluosilicic acid into aluminium fluoride for industrial use. We are not going to dump it in the sea."



The JFI factory complex — a boon or a danger to the Gulf of Aqaba?

POLLUTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Why the JFI factory may have some nasty side-effects

By Mustafa M. Salma

The Gulf of Aqaba is a part of the great rift valley, a unique geological formation extending from Turkey through the Red Sea to East Africa. The Gulf is narrow and very deep. It is 150 kilometres long and 5.25 kilometres wide. Despite its narrowness the Gulf depth averages 630 metres and the sides are precipitous slopes (60 to 70 per cent gradient), allowing little area for reef and grass bed development.

The climate is hot and dry due to the influence of the surrounding desert lands, with mean annual air temperature around 26°C in summer and 18°C in winter. Rainfall averages less than 22 mm annually and evaporation is 200 mm per year. Strong winds blow all the year around, mostly from the north and northeast. Southerly winds occur mostly in winter and are less common. These conditions lead to hypersalinity of (4.1 per cent to 4.3 per cent) as compared with 3.5 per cent salinity usually found throughout the seas of the world. The highest surface salinities are occur in the northern Gulf.

The magnificent setting of the Gulf contrasts sharply with the stark, virtual absence of life of the uplands. Here a highly developed fringing reef and its associated biota exists. In the absence of pollution, the prevailing conditions of water clarity, salinity, temperature, light intensity and water movement, have changed little over the years. This stability of the Gulf environment is of great importance to marine life and is highly suitable for numerous different species of living organism. It is due to these moderate and stable conditions that the animal life of the Gulf waters is spectacularly rich.

The coastline of Jordan extends from the extreme northern end of the Gulf for a distance of 27 kilometres down the southern stretch acquired from Saudi Arabia till the border town of Al Durrah. A fringing coral reef lies parallel to this most southern section of the Jordanian coast. The massive coral blocks of the reef with their different crevices, surfaces and tunnels form one of the richest and most productive habitats on earth. Hundreds if not thousands of marine organisms are able to live there, furnished with living space and food by the diversity of the reef structure and its community.

Unfortunately, it is along this southern coast, the coastal fan of Wadi 2, that major industrialisation is taking place which will have considerable detrimental effects on the marine ecosystem of the coral reef.

Fertiliser factory

The Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company (JFI): JFI was founded in 1975, to study and develop a phosphate fertiliser plant in the coastal fan of Wadi 2, about 17 kilometres south of Aqaba. When it comes on stream by the end of Nov. 1981, the plant will produce 740,000 mtyr of diammonium phosphate (DAP) and 105,000 mtyr of marketable 54 per cent phosphoric acid. The main units of the plant consist of:

(A) Two sulphuric acid units in parallel, each capable of producing 1800 mt per day of sulphuric acid from imported solid sulphur.

(B) A phosphoric acid unit designed for the production of 1250 mtyr of phosphoric acid. Here the content of phosphate rock is converted into phosphoric acid (30 per cent concentration) and the virtually insoluble by-product salt calcium sulphate (gypsum).

Around 5 tonnes of gypsum or phosphogypsum are generated per tonne of phosphoric acid. With a large phosphoric acid production plant of 1,250 t.p.d. (P₂O₅) capacity like JFI's, this obviously represents a staggering amount of by-product gypsum produced and a disposal problem.

This gypsum will be discharged from the filter onto a belt conveyor 2 km long running eastward outside the phosphoric acid plant and up to the top of the adjoining hills. From here the gypsum will be fed onto a stocker which will start to build a gypsum stockpile. As the mound increases the gypsum will be spread further down the valley by stocker or bulldozers.

(C) A granulation unit consisting of two production trains operating in parallel, each with a capacity of 50 mtyr of granulated DAP of GFS design.

(D) Utilities and ancillary facilities. These include: power plant, auxiliary boilers, instrument and plant air, fuel oil and diesel oil storage tanks, turbo generator sets each 22 MW of (6,000 V) and 50 Hz, emergency electric power, water system, cooling pond, sulphur storage, phosphate rock truck unloading system and storage, phosphate rock, ammonia storage, etc.

A deep water dock provided with two berths for 30,000-40,000 DWT vessels. The dock is equipped with loading, unloading and transfer facilities for imported products (solid sulphur and liquid ammonia) and for export products (DAP, phosphoric acid, potash of Arab Potassium Co.).

The sea water cooling system consists of sea water intake, pumping, chlorination and ferrous sulphate injection system to control erosion of turbo generator, auxiliary steam condensers, and sulphuric acid coolers. The location of this station and the sea water outfall is to the north of the dock along the shoreline, or less than 100 metres west of the coastal highway. Sea water for plant cooling is pumped from the sea water intake to the plant at a rate of 19,000 m³/hr. It is a once through system with outfall back to the gulf.

(E) Aluminium fluoride plant: The plant is designed with a capacity of 20,000 mtyr of aluminium fluoride (AlF₃), based on the utilization of part of by-product fluosilicic acid. It is expected to come on stream by the end of 1983. A neutralization plant will also be constructed for the neutralisation of residual fluosilicic acid from AlF₃ plant effluent as well as unutilized fluosilicic acid.

Environmental problems In general the specific environmental problems in phosphoric acid manufacture subject to control are:

(1) Water pollution. — Thermal pollution. — Acidity and fluorine. — Residual acidity, toxic heavy metals and fluorine in phosphogypsum.

(2) Air pollution. — Sulphur oxide emissions and vapour from sulphuric acid plant. — Dust emissions from phosphate rock preparation and handling. Other sources of dust are sulphur unloading, potash unloading and loading, and granulation plant. — Fluorine emissions from phosphoric acid plant reactor and evaporator and from granulation plant.

In respect to JFI, the environmental protection guidelines or criteria adopted by it are equivalent to those standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The guidelines cover air pollution, industrial effluent, and solid disposal. In principle, no liquid effluents will be released to the Gulf of Aqaba (except sea water cooling). The effluent water discharge from the fertiliser complex will be directed to the cooling pond within the complex compound. Sludge from sanitary water treatment unit will be discharged to the gypsum disposal site. Nevertheless, it has to be emphasised that the environmental criteria adopted by JFI are merely guidelines and are more of less of academic value unless applied and enforced. Furthermore, there are many weak spots in the fertiliser complex,

which may lead to severe pollution or irreversible damage to the fauna and flora of the Gulf waters.

The most important weak spots are:

(1) There were no stringent requirements placed on the design and engineering of the gypsum stockpile both in respect of containment of drainage and in respect of its mechanical stability. By-product phosphogypsum as it is often termed contains three types of impurities that are considered potentially harmful if it is disposed of into the open, among the hills and especially in the natural path of the valley:

The gypsum contains 30-40 per cent moisture after disposal. As an interim solution till the AlF₃ plant is completed, JFI intends to dump fluosilicic acid on the gypsum stockpile. Part of fluosilicic acid will volatilize by solar radiation and the rest will seep down by gravity and thus contaminate easily the sandy groundwater table below and ultimately finds its way under the complex and to the Gulf water. Fluorine is toxic to man, animal, plant, and the marine environment. Above 2 mg/litre, it mottles teeth and those working on the gypsum pile will be affected directly by fluorine in the air. Water run-off from the gypsum stockpile during winter or in the case of flash floods will pollute the Gulf waters severely and might threaten the safety of the complex as well.

There are two main criteria which must be satisfied in order for any given intake / discharge to perform satisfactorily. First, the returning hot water discharge must not raise the ambient temperature of the receiving water beyond that which can be accommodated by the resident marine ecosystem. Second, heated water must not re-enter the intake

which would result in a progressive escalation of plant operating temperature and subsequently lead to severe thermal pollution of the sea water. The guidelines for sea water cooling adopted by JFI state that the temperature rise shall not exceed 10°C between sea water temperature and returning sea water flow, while residual chlorine content shall not exceed 0.2 ppm in the exit water. These are excessive for two reasons. First, circulation in the Gulf is complex and the study conducted by Suboceanic Consultants, Inc. to that effect is not conclusive. It is very possible that the effluent outfall might re-enter the intake in certain conditions such as westerly winds and southern currents. If this current reversal occurs, heated water will re-enter the intake, resulting in thermal pollution to the sea water cooling station area. Second, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency criteria for residual chlorine in coast waters is 10 ppb. Chlorinating at 154 kg/hr of 6.5 per cent sodium hypochlorite will leave a residual chlorine greater than 10 ppb and will have an impact on the coral reef. Ferrous sulphate injection to sea water will increase the acidity of sea water gradually.

(3) Loading and unloading activities at JFI's jetty (of fertiliser, phosphate, sulphur, potash, ammonia) in case of spillage will have a primary effect on marine life within that vicinity by: (a) turbidity increase of the water will all the known consequences, (b) nutrient enrichment (ammonia, phosphorus, potash) of sea water will lead to excessive growth of algae and the start of the process of eutrophication.

(4) Overloading of cooling pond beyond its capacity due to: underdesign, accidental failures, excessive rain, or flash flood will introduce heavy loads of fluorine, toxic metals, nutrients, etc. to the Gulf waters and thus cause a major disturbance to the marine environment.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

12:30 — Korea
12:35 — Cartoon
13:00 — Treasure Island
13:35 — Muppet Show
14:00 — Candid Camera
15:00 — Local Programme
15:30 — Local Programme
16:00 — On Development
16:30 — News in Arabic
17:00 — Arabic Series
17:30 — Arabic Series
18:00 — Muslim Films in Arabic
18:30 — News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 — French Programme
19:00 — News in French
19:30 — News in Hebrew
20:00 — Comedy: George & Mildred
21:00 — One Hundred Famous Paintings
21:30 — Catch Williams
22:00 — News in English
22:15 — S.W.A.T.

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00 — Morning Show
08:00 — News Summary
09:00 — Morning Show
10:00 — News Summary
10:30 — Pop Session
11:00 — News Summary
11:30 — Pop Session
12:00 — News Bulletin
12:30 — Instrumentals
13:00 — News Music
13:30 — Concert Hour
14:00 — News Summary
14:30 — Instrumentals
15:00 — News Summary
15:30 — Talking Points, Pop Session
16:00 — News Summary
16:30 — Over a Cup of Tea, Arabian Music
17:00 — Newsweek
17:30 — Date with a Star
18:00 — Evening Show
19:00 — News Summary
19:30 — Evening Show
20:00 — News Summary
20:30 — News Summary
21:00 — News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

6300 KHz, 63.30 KHz, 63.40 KHz, 63.50 KHz, 63.60 KHz, 63.70 KHz, 63.80 KHz, 63.90 KHz, 64.00 KHz, 64.10 KHz, 64.20 KHz, 64.30 KHz, 64.40 KHz, 64.50 KHz, 64.60 KHz, 64.70 KHz, 64.80 KHz, 64.90 KHz, 65.00 KHz, 65.10 KHz, 65.20 KHz, 65.30 KHz, 65.40 KHz, 65.50 KHz, 65.60 KHz, 65.70 KHz, 65.80 KHz, 65.90 KHz, 66.00 KHz, 66.10 KHz, 66.20 KHz, 66.30 KHz, 66.40 KHz, 66.50 KHz, 66.60 KHz, 66.70 KHz, 66.80 KHz, 66.90 KHz, 67.00 KHz, 67.10 KHz, 67.20 KHz, 67.30 KHz, 67.40 KHz, 67.50 KHz, 67.60 KHz, 67.70 KHz, 67.80 KHz, 67.90 KHz, 68.00 KHz, 68.10 KHz, 68.20 KHz, 68.30 KHz, 68.40 KHz, 68.50 KHz, 68.60 KHz, 68.70 KHz, 68.80 KHz, 68.90 KHz, 69.00 KHz, 69.10 KHz, 69.20 KHz, 69.30 KHz, 69.40 KHz, 69.50 KHz, 69.60 KHz, 69.70 KHz, 69.80 KHz, 69.90 KHz, 70.00 KHz, 70.10 KHz, 70.20 KHz, 70.30 KHz, 70.40 KHz, 70.50 KHz, 70.60 KHz, 70.70 KHz, 70.80 KHz, 70.90 KHz, 71.00 KHz, 71.10 KHz, 71.20 KHz, 71.30 KHz, 71.40 KHz, 71.50 KHz, 71.60 KHz, 71.70 KHz, 71.80 KHz, 71.90 KHz, 72.00 KHz, 72.10 KHz, 72.20 KHz, 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Japan's women athletes win three Asian golds

NEW DELHI (R) — Japan's women athletes did their oatioo proud here Tuesday winning three gold medals to haul back China's lead in the Asian Games medal tally.

Japan's winners were Emi Akimoto in the 100 metres hurdles, Emi Matsui in the javelin and Hiromi Isozaki in the 400 metres.

Their victories took Japan to within four medals of China's gold medals setting the stage for an exciting struggle for the title of top sporting oatioo in Asia over the remaining three and a half days of competition.

China's only win Tuesday was by their world ranked triple jumper Zhenxian Zhou who injured himself during his winning leap.

Malaysia's flying policeman Rabuan Pit, winner of the men's 100 metres on Sunday, also ignored injuries to qualify for the final of the 200 metres.

Japan's 26-year-old hurdler

Emi Akimoto set her country on the winning trail with a spirited win from her colleague Chizuko Akimoto, who was the favourite for the event, and China's Jih-anhua Dai.

The gold medal winner came to the games from her honeymoon after marrying on November 6.

She told reporters that her coach told her before the race that if she did not win she would not be able to return home to her husband.

Emi, a highschool teacher, said from now on she would run under her husband's name and the couple had no plans for children until after the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Hiromi Isozaki, winner of the 400 metres in record time, also had a tussle with a countrywoman for the gold medal just beating Junko Yoshida with India's Padmini Thomas third.

Isozaki, a cute 17-year-old, said

she was not worried by Yoshida's fast time in the heats and was confident of winning.

Japan's other gold medalist was javelin thrower Emi Matsui who beat out China's Shufen Li and Japan's Minoru Mori with a throw of 54.70 metres well, outside the games record.

However China's triple champion Zhenxian Zhou, who is ranked second in the world, smashed the games record in his event with a jump of 16.80 metres, beating the old mark of 16.56.

Zhou cut his hand with his running spikes on the winning leap and did not take the last of his six jumps. However he still left Japan's Yashushi Ueta and India's Balasubramanian well behind.

There was drama in the semi-final of the men's 200 metres when favourite Rabuan Pit limped to the starting block with an achilles tendon injury suffered during training.

However Pit, a 26-year-old policeman, fought through the pain to easily win his race. He immediately took off his right shoe after finishing the race but said he was confident of taking part in the final on Wednesday.

Navratilova, Lloyd clear opening matches in Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Four of the top five seeds led by Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert Lloyd won their opening matches with a total loss of just nine games in the second round of the Australian Open Tennis Championships at Kooyong Tuesday.

Navratilova, the Wimbledon Champion who is seeded first, had a decisive 6-1, 6-2 victory over Iva Budarova, who comes from Navratilova's native country of Czechoslovakia. Fellow-American Chris Evert Lloyd, seeded second, disposed of Australian Chris O'Neill 6-1, 6-1.

Third seeded American Andrea Jaeger had the day off, but the next two seeds, Australian Wendy Turnbull and American Pam Shriver, each dropped just two games.

Shriver began the slaughter of the innocents on Kooyong's centre court by drubbing Renata Tomanova of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-1. Turnbull's 6-2, 6-0 triumph was at the expense of compatriot Dianne Fromholtz, who showed how much work she has to do if her attempted comeback from two car accidents is to bear fruit. Fromholtz was ranked fourth in the world in 1977.

In Tuesday's only upsets, American Sharon Walsh beat eighth-seeded Mima Jausovec of Yug-

oslavia 6-4, 6-2 and Jo Durie of Britain eliminated 12th-seeded American Zina Garrison, also 6-4, 6-2.

Australian favourite Evonne Goolagong, the 13th seed, fresh from her runner-up finish in the New South Wales Open in Sydney on Sunday, overcame bustling little Brazilian Claudia Monteiro to win in three sets 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Goolagong said she felt a three-set match had helped her. "I've still got a lot of catching up to do. I've got to be a bit stronger mentally and physically. I've been working pretty hard to get this far. I just have to develop from here," she said.

Navratilova, the defending champion, said her one remaining ambition was to win as many of the Grand Slam titles as she can.

"That's what people take notice of," she said, adding that before even considering the possibility of winning the Grand Slam, she wanted to concentrate on capturing Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in the same year.

"You can gear up for certain tournaments but not for the whole Grand Slam because anything could happen," she said.

Navratilova, now a U.S. citizen, used her match to test the court's surface. "I felt it was faster than when I was warming up so I was late on a lot of my shots," she said.

Switzerland claims early success in world skiing

BORMIO, Italy (R) — The world alpine skiing season starts in earnest on Sunday with a World Cup men's downhill at the Swiss resort of Lagalpa, substituted for the original venue of Laax Monday because the snow layer there is too thin.

Switzerland, however, can already claim an initial success by winning the team title at the inaugural World Series, a World Cup warm-up, which ended here on Sunday.

The opening World Cup event will probably turn into yet another round in the four-year-old battle for supremacy between Peter Mueller of Switzerland, Austria's Harti Wehrather and reigning downhill champion Steve Podborski of Canada.

Experience being a major asset in the spectacular discipline, the top trio are unlikely to be troubled by younger rivals for much of the four-month season.

The situation is not nearly so well defined in the slalom and giant slalom and the chase for overall honours.

American brothers Steve and Phil Mahre, who dominated last season at the expense of Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark, have the potential to remain on top, but the competition could well be stiffer than ever before.

The latest prospects will have an extra opportunity to reap precious points in the World Cup Super-G, a long, fast, one-run giant slalom, which has been added to the traditional programme.

The Mahre brothers and Stenmark are unhappy about the Super-G events which are scheduled for Val d'Isere, Madonna Di Campiglio and Garmisch-Partenkirchen. "This new event will not do anything for the alpine competitors," Phil Mahre, winner of the overall, slalom, giant slalom and combined crowns last season, told Reuters recently.

But Steve and Phil, who are joined this season by their younger brother Paul, a good downhill racer, will not boycott the new events.

"It would not be worth the trouble to come to Europe in December to compete in two slaloms only," Mahre added. "Besides, it would be stupid to miss the combined points of the events at Val d'Isere and Madonna Di Campiglio which might come in handy later in the season."

The Mahre brothers do not conceal the fact that they are aiming for further World Cup honours this season.

They spent the close-season building a house for Phil who married earlier this year and, true to their usual tactics, did little physical or technical training. They have managed only about 30 days of skiing since the last season but feel this is enough.

"When you reach a certain level, alpine skiing is all in the head," Phil Mahre said. "You must be madly eager for victory and give all you've got in each race. This is not what you learn going through thousands of slalom gates under the third gaze of trainers."

The brothers said they planned to gain as many points as possible, regardless of the events, in December and January then concentrate later on the more technical races, particularly the slaloms.

Besides Stenmark, their most dangerous rivals are likely to be Frits Zurbriegen, Peter Luescher and Joel Gaspoz of Switzerland, Austrians Antoo Steiner and Hubert Strolz, winner of the last European Cup, plus Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg and former World Champion Andreas Wenzel of Liechtenstein.

Wenzel and the Swiss skiers were in great form in the World Series, but the Mahre brothers, Stenmark and Girardelli did not compete. Wenzel and company will have to remain in top shape and do their best in both the slaloms and downhill to defeat the Americans and the Swedes.

Wenzel, fourth in the 1980 downhill at Kitzbuhel, Zurbriegen, junior European champion, and Luescher, 17th in the International Skiing Federation rankings are all rated as clear challenges to the top men.

Borg in legendary form

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — Sweden's Bjorn Borg showed some of his legendary form Monday night when he beat brilliant but erratic Vincent van Patten of the U.S. 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 in the Europe versus America challenge here.

Borg, 25, is looking for a return to top tennis next year and has an opportunity to meet many top opponents in this three-day spectacular.

But he admitted he was not yet at his peak. "I have already pro-

ved to myself I can play good tennis again although I am not as consistent as before," he said. His comeback now demanded a mental struggle to improve the concentration he sometimes lost.

Van Patten, also 25, showed he could hold long rallies but his serve frequently let him down. The energetic actor-turned-tennis-player chased the ball all over the court and often showed the skills which he believes will take him into the world's top 10 players next year.

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Interested and qualified firms can purchase the pre-qualification and tender documents and full set of designs and drawings for a non-refundable fee of JD 200 from the offices of Arabair Services (the consultants) starting noon Thursday, Dec. 2, 1982 until the closing date at noon Sunday Jan. 2, 1983.

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England in trouble against Australia

BRISBANE (R) — England face a daunting challenge to save the second cricket test against Australia after another batting collapse Tuesday.

They resume their second innings on the final day Wednesday on 279 for seven, a lead of 157.

The touring team could have been in a much more perilous position had it not been for a determined unbroken eighth wicket stand between their two off spinners, Geoff Miller and Eddie Hemmings. They put on 53, Miller reaching his 50 just before the close, the check the rampant Australian bowlers.

Paceman Jeff Thomson, so often the scourge of England batsmen in his younger days, was the thorn in England's side Tuesday.

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China plans to boost imports

PEKING (R) — Premier Zhao Ziyang, unveiling a long-delayed five-year economic plan, said Tuesday China planned to boost imports faster than exports and run a trade deficit equivalent to more than \$2.5 billion by 1985.

Mr. Zhao told the National People's Congress, China's parliament, that efforts would be made to export more of such products as textiles, light industrial goods and machinery.

At the same time, new technology and equipment would make up a larger proportion of imports than before, he said.

Overall economic output was planned to rise by an annual rate of four per cent between 1981 and 1985, Mr. Zhao said.

But he called on the nation to strive for five per cent.

However foreign trade would have grown at an average 8.7 per cent a year in those five years to a total of \$5.5 billion yuan (\$43 billion).

Official figures released in October, in dollars rather than yuan, showed a \$1.4 billion surplus on foreign trade for 1981.

But direct comparisons with Tuesday's figures are misleading because special exchange rates are used in government calculations.

Premier Zhao said that by 1985, grain output was expected to reach 360 million tonnes, 12.6 per cent more than in 1980.

United States, Western Europe appear closer to a trade war

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Western Europe appear closer to a trade war after failing to resolve disputes over European governments' use of farm export subsidies, a high-level U.S. agriculture department official said Monday.

It would seem to me action is called for, no doubt about it," Deputy Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng told a news conference about the ministerial trade meeting which ended in Geneva Monday.

The Europeans at the conference held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) had rejected demands by the United States,

Australia and others for a phased end to farm export subsidies.

Mr. Lyng mentioned such possible U.S. actions as dumping government-owned surplus butter on the world market or U.S. export subsidies to counter the European trade practices.

Agriculture Secretary John Block said earlier the U.S. administration was preparing a package of possible retaliatory actions but refused to disclose any details.

The long-simmering dispute over agricultural trade had been overshadowed by differences between the United States and Europe on steel and the Soviet Union's natural gas pipeline from Siberia to

Western Europe.

But the farm trade disputes became a major stumbling block at the Geneva negotiations and Mr. Lyng reported that an impasse had developed.

He criticized huge Common Market subsidies as making it difficult for American farmers to compete in world markets.

Options for possible U.S. action would be prepared, and decisions would be made soon, especially on moving surplus U.S. commodities into the world market, Mr. Lyng said.

He said the administration would consider U.S. subsidies on poultry, eggs, raisins, canned fruit, flour and pasta to counter the European subsidies.

In the Congress, sentiment has been growing for the United States to restrict imports of European products or perhaps even reduce U.S. military support for West

Europe if the Common Market agricultural policies remain unchanged.

Senator Bob Dole, Republican of Kansas, said failure of the world trade leaders to reach agreement in Geneva "could well produce a protectionist backlash in Congress next year."

Mr. Dole, who led a U.S. congressional delegation at the talks, said he was particularly disappointed the conference did not resolve U.S. complaints that European farm subsidies undercut American exports.

"Export subsidies are unfair and are creating a tremendous disruption in international trade," Mr. Block said.

Mr. Block acknowledged some progress could result from U.S. bilateral talks with the European Community, scheduled for Dec. 9 and 10 in Brussels.

DHL threatened by monopoly move

PARIS — One of the major international air courier services, DHL International, could be a major casualty of a bid by the French post office (the PTT) to reassert a monopoly dating back to the 15th-century rule of Louis XI.

The PTT's action is in line with the government's campaign to promote French products and services through the so-called "reconquest of the domestic market."

In October last year DHL International, a U.S.-based express courier service, received a letter from the PTT telling it to halt its operations outside Paris.

At that stage DHL employed 220 (now 280) people and had offices at Marseilles, Nice, Toulouse, Lyon, Strasbourg, Le Havre, Rouen, Grenoble, Annecy and Paris.

Its French turnover of FF75 million (\$10.3 million) is only 4 per cent of DHL's sales worldwide, but France is a major transit point for DHL among the 91 countries in which it operates.

It is also used as a clearing station for Spain. Outside France, DHL has 333 offices worldwide.

Its business is to provide an international door-to-door delivery service for business documents — bills of lading, cheques, tender documents, blueprints, negotiating instruments, samples which need to arrive quickly and without risk of loss.

Express courier services have enjoyed a worldwide boom over the past 10 years, expanding virtually from nothing to a total sector turnover of \$4 billion.

In France there are 10 international air courier companies, but DHL claims to have 80 per cent of the market. Its main clients

are banks, insurance companies, oil and chemical companies, shippers and offshore suppliers, electronics and heavy electrical companies.

Among nationalised French concerns which use its services are Aerospatiale, Matra, Rhone-Poulenc, Pechiney Ugine Kuhlman, and the banks Societe Generale and BNP.

DHL opened offices in France in 1976 when it moved from delivering documents in France to collecting them for distribution worldwide.

In 1979, under the former administration of Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, DHL was summoned by the French post office to discuss its activities in the light of the PTT monopoly.

As PTT officials explain, this monopoly, dating back to Louis XI (1423-83), covers the distribution within France of all letters and packets. Parcels do not fall within its scope.

The result of subsequent negotiations was that DHL agreed to pay the post office a levy to "compensate for loss of business" to the PTT — though DHL has always denied that it does take business away from national post offices.

The levy was geared to potential loss of business by Postalex, the PTT's international express mail service. The levy amounted for 4 per cent of DHL's French turnover but has subsequently risen to 15 per cent because of the rise in Postalex charges and the large increase in number of packages shipped by DHL.

The agreement with the PTT specifically provided that DHL could operate throughout the whole of France. Thus the letter that arrived in October 1981 —

six months after the change of government — telling DHL to cease its operations outside Paris dropped like a bombshell.

Mr. David Wilcock, the head of DHL in France, says he was told by PTT officials that there had been a "printing error" in the earlier document which should never have said that they could operate throughout French territory.

Officials today say that DHL is operating in "contravention" of the PTT's monopoly and that the 1980 agreement was a concession that gave them "precarious and temporary permission".

The PTT is now reasserting its monopoly, the officials explain. They see no reason why DHL should cream off the profitable part of postal business while being under no obligation to provide loss-making services such as deliveries from "the Alps to Scotland".

At least two factors seem to lie behind the change of policy at the PTT.

The first was the desire of an incoming socialist administration to expand the role of the national postal service and, hence, the number of jobs it provides.

Pressure by the communist-led CGT union (the largest in the country) has been strong on both points. The CGT has taken a front role in the protectionist "reconquest of the domestic market" campaign as providing more jobs for Frenchmen.

The second is that, in Marseilles, the PTT has been experimenting with a new door-to-door express delivery service, Vilexpress, for companies in large provincial cities.

"The PTT have made quite clear to us that they don't want any competition with it," Mr. Wilcock says.

DHL refused to comply with the PTT's order. In April this year they were served with a new contract from the PTT that excluded them from the provinces and the outer Paris area, substantially raising

their levy and subjected them to a 30-day notice (now lengthened, PTT officials say, to three months).

DHL say they would not sign this.

"PTT officials then arrived at our offices at Roissy (the Charles de Gaulle airport) north of Paris," Mr. Wilcock says. "They tried to seize material from us and we had to resort to legal action to stop them."

The same thing happened, he claims, at the DHL offices in Lille, Nice and Marseilles.

Mr. Wilcock says that France is the only major industrialised country where the operations have been thus restricted. Arguably, the ban on operating outside Paris runs counter to the government's decentralisation policy and that air couriers provide export-oriented services that the PTT cannot match carry no weight.

PTT officials say that Postalex can provide the same speed of delivery and the same service for exporters.

What future, then, is there for DHL in France?

Postoffice officials say that outside Paris they will be able to run a messenger service for parcels that are not covered by the monopoly.

Mr. Wilcock says that they have been told they can maintain their provincial offices but that deliveries with France will be assured by the PTT.

He says this is impossible to accept. DHL's rule is that all packets are handled only by DHL employees. In addition, DHL indemnifies customers against delay or loss which would be impossible if the PTT took over delivery.

Mr. Wilcock is now in despair. "I've tried every argument with the administration," he says, "and these arguments have been supported within French companies and ministries. But up to now it has been to no effect."

— Financial Times news features

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices generally eased in nervous trading, dealers said. Operators remained confused over short-term prospects for U.K. interest rates despite the steadier trend of sterling Tuesday, dealers added.

Leading equities were mixed but with a markedly easier bias. Charter Cons was 7p down at 213 after poor half-year results, while Allied Lyons shed 6p to 133½ following interim profits below market expectations.

Government bonds were down ¼ to ¼ point, dealers said. North American stocks moved lower in line with the fall on Wall Street Monday.

At 1500 Tuesday the F.T. index was down 4.6 at 596.2. Oil shares closed lower, with B.P. down 8p at 294 ahead of interim results on Thursday, while Shell and Britoil lost 6p and 3p respectively.

In electricals, Plessey was a feature losing 10p at 612 while GEC was down 5p at 215 after an opening gain of 2p.

Banks fluctuated narrowly throughout the day with Barclays unchanged at 383 after 386 while Midland lost 2p at 308 and Natwest added the same amount at 485.

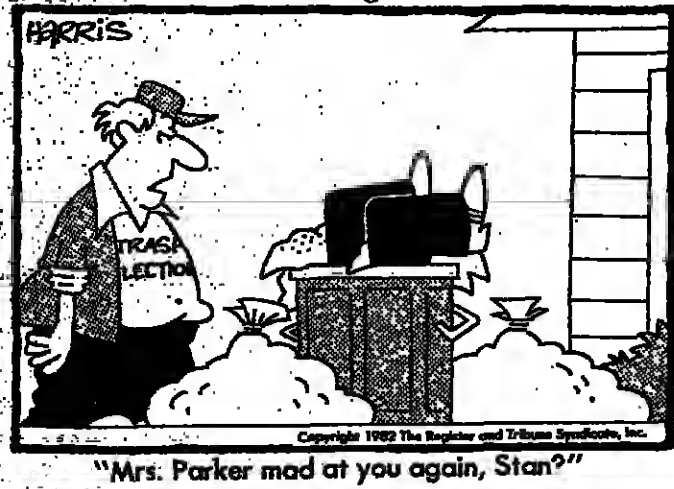
Gold finished firmer, after an easier opening, as the bullion price rose to an afternoon fixing of \$436.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

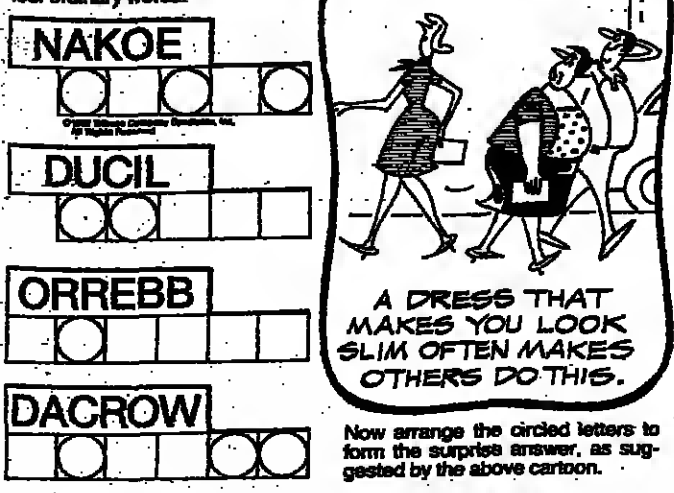
| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| One sterling | 1.6115/25 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.2421/24 | Canadian dollars |
| | 2.4865/75 | West German marks |
| | 2.7400/20 | Dutch guilders |
| | 2.1365/80 | Swiss francs |
| | 48.78/81 | Belgian francs |
| | 7.0325/45 | French francs |
| | 1439.50/1440.50 | Italian lire |
| | 252.00/15 | Japanese yen |
| | 7.4330/60 | Swedish crowns |
| | 7.0750/80 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 8.7400/50 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 429.00/430.00 | U.S. dollars |

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

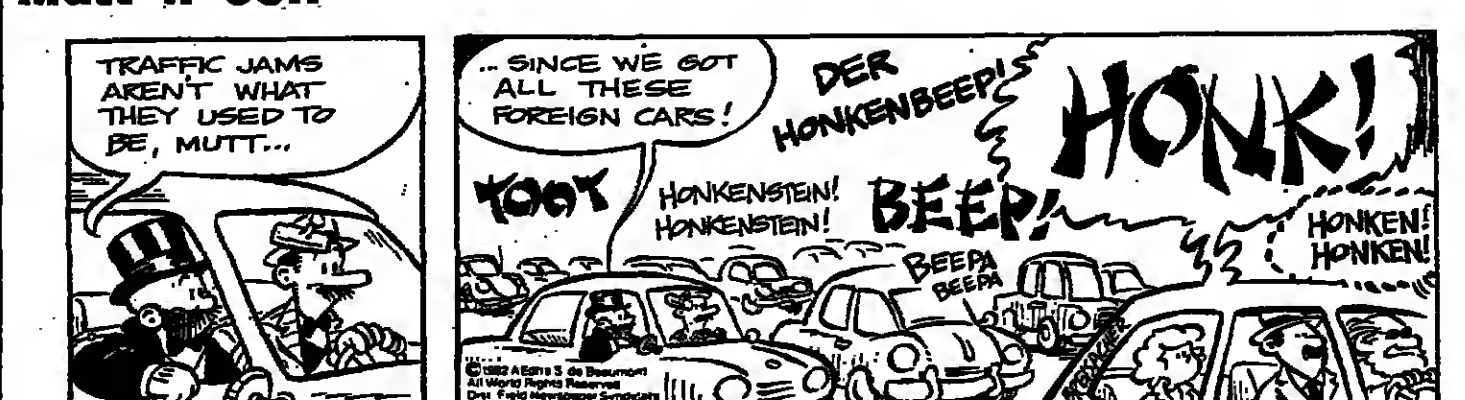
Yesterday's Jumbles: LAPEL, DEITY, WHINNY, DOUBLE

Answer: A girl can be pretty as a picture when she's this—WELL-PAINTED

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC. 1, 1982

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

(from the Carroll Righter Institute)

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when considerable progress can be made by carefully following previously set plans. You have considerable ingenuity, both mental and manual. Be sure to use them.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Communicating with others on a more intelligent level can bring greater harmony and success to the future.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Concentrate on adding to your present income by improving regular routines. Do nothing to endanger your security.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Do nothing about those new ideas you have until later in the day when you can work them out successfully.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You can get good advice from an expert now that could lead to more benefits in the future.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Concentrate on ways to have increased harmony with associates. Make the evening a happy one with the person you mean the most to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study your financial affairs and make plans to have more abundance in the future. Make new contacts of worth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Any important appointments should be made and kept in the morning for best results. Make the evening a happy one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Plan just how to add to present income via some added interest. Don't take any risks where credit is concerned.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Do nothing that could spoil the harmony you are now enjoying at home. Wait for a better time to start a new plan.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Analyze your present financial position and make plans to have greater income in the future. Don't waste valuable time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have good ideas that need more study before putting them in operation. Allow time for social pleasure.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Listen to what an expert has to say about whatever is puzzling you. Take time to improve appearance and health.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will require particular attention since the nature here is quite different from most. Your progeny will be a person of much ability and could become very successful in life. Gentle discipline is needed.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

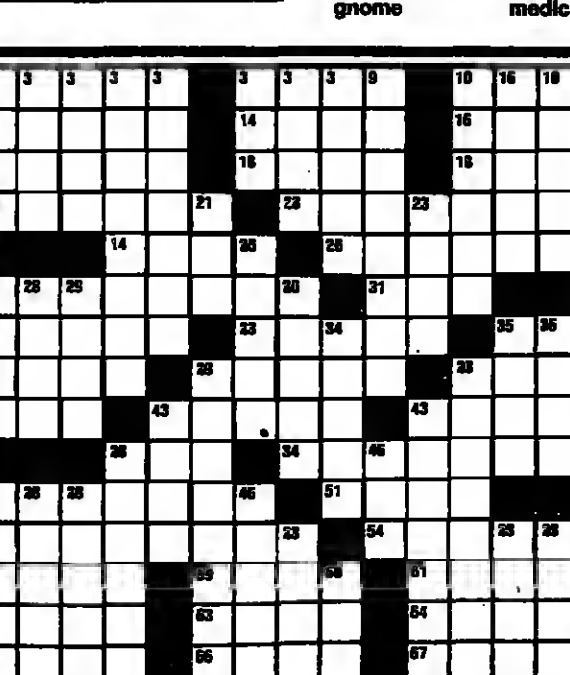
THE Daily Crossword

By Nancy McCarthy

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ACROSS | 27 Veteran | 47 Easily embarrassed | 11 Ottoman government |
| 1 Flavorsome | 31 Gelfin | 12 Below | 13 Peruses |
| 6 Finesse | 32 Mushroom | 14 Dwarf | 21 Sweet potato |
| 10 Good | 33 Lovable | 15 Detective | 23 Gossamer |
| 14 Hogs | 34 Disney | 16 Wolfe | 25 Breastwork |
| 15 Glacial | 35 Luncheon | 17 Grouch | 27 Leave out |
| 18 Not any | 36 Haul | 18 Revoked | 28 Grey wolf |
| 17 Ice bucket | 37 In the same place: abbr. | 19 Disney | 29 Leak |
| adjunct | 38 Head tops | 20 Goddess of discord | 30 Parisian |
| 18 Actor | 39 Soft drink | 21 Giddy | 31 flask |
| Robert De | 40 Go one | 22 French | 32 Nut |
| 19 Earth | 41 better | 23 French mud | 33 Pith helmet |
| goddess | 42 Bracing | 24 Tropical | 34 Greek wine |
| 20 Somnolent | 43 Cheerful | 25 fish | 35 Methods |
| Disney | 44 Word with Stanley or Davis | 26 Erode | 37 Commoners |
| character | 45 Money earned | 27 Gadgets | 38 Noisy |
| 22 Wearing a headband | | 28 Invisible | 39 Porous |
| 24 Rise high | | 29 force: abbr. | 40 Badgers |
| 26 Sport jackets | | 30 Open-handed | 41 Treasures |

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| DOWN | 1 Concords | 47 French port |
| 2 Military acronym | 48 Lofly lake | 49 Small plug |
| 3 Evergreen | 50 Even | 51 Terrible |
| 4 Ate | 52 "I — man with..." | 53 Kind of school |
| 5 Plunder | 54 Longhairs | 55 Snow White's medic? |
| 6 Weight | | |
| 7 That | | |
| 8 S.A. Indian | | |
| 9 English | | |
| 10 Explosive | | |
| 11 gnome | | |



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WORLD

NATO begins policy review

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO defence ministers will Tuesday review the alliance's arms control and nuclear policies after hearing a U.S. intelligence report on the East-West nuclear balance.

The ministers will uphold the deterrence strategy of NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), despite campaigns for a nuclear freeze or for a no-first-use pledge, diplomatic sources said.

Meeting for a twice-yearly nuclear planning group session, they will reiterate that NATO needs to start deploying Pershing II and Cruise missiles by the end of next year if there is no arms control agreement with the Soviet Union.

The first Cruises will become operational with the 501st U.S. tactical missile wing stationed at Britain's Greenham Common air base. The first Pershing II's are planned for deployment at about the same time in West Germany.

NATO countries expect the Soviet Union to use a mixture of concessions and threats in 1983 to

try to derail the alliance's plan without having to trade off its medium-range nuclear missiles, the sources said.

They said Monday's report in the semi-official Soviet news agency Novosti that Moscow might switch to a "launch on warning" posture if the missiles were installed in Western Europe gave a foretaste of more threats to come.

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger will Tuesday brief the allies on the two parallel sets of U.S.-Soviet talks in Geneva on European-based, medium-range missiles and strategic arms.

He is expected to tell them that despite several flight test flops, the Pershing II missile should be ready on time with no delay in the deployment schedule, the sources said.

For their part, the European ministers involved will make progress reports on preparations for the bases although Belgium and The Netherlands, due to take 48 Cruises each, are not expected to

be able yet to announce a final decision on accepting them on their territory.

Mr. Weinberger will also explain President Reagan's reasons for deciding to deploy 100 new intercontinental MX missiles in a "dense pack" formation in the U.S.

Bonn refuses demand

BONN (R) — West German Defence Minister Manfred Woerner said he had rejected repeated demands by NATO's supreme commander in Europe, Gen. Bernard Rogers, for a four per cent increase in Bonn's defence spending.

In an interview with West German Radio in Brussels the minister said he had made it clear that such a rise was out of the question because of his country's economic difficulties.

"There is no more money to be spent and there is no more money to be spent and there is not likely

to be any more in the coming year," Mr. Woerner said.

Gen. Rogers was not passing on demands from the U.S. government or from NATO but expressing his personal opinion, he said.

NATO tries publicity

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO's European member have decided to launch a publicity campaign in the United States to convince Americans that Western Europe pays its fair share of the common defence burden.

European defence ministers, meeting Monday ahead of the full autumn session of NATO defence ministers Tuesday, agreed to buy television time and distribute a booklet stressing their defence contribution, diplomatic sources said.

The campaign was prompted by renewed criticism in the U.S. Congress that the European allies' defence effort is not in keeping with their wealth.



The U.S. State Department Monday released these photos, which allegedly show a victim of a Soviet "yellow rain" poison gas attack in Laos. Following medical treatment, the youth survived. (A.P. photo)

Shultz repeats accusation that Moscow uses chemical weapons

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz said that the Soviet Union has ignored world criticism and continues to use illegal chemical and toxin weapons in Laos, Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

"The world cannot be silent in the face of such humanitarian suffering and such cynical disregard for international law and agreements," Mr. Shultz said in a report submitted to congress and the United Nations.

"All who would seek to promote human rights, and all who would seek to maintain the credibility of international agreements, have a duty to call world attention to the continuing use of

chemical and toxin weapons, and to seek a halt to their use," he said.

Mr. Shultz's remarks accompanied the second U.S. report in a year on alleged use of deadly chemicals and poisons by Moscow and its allies in violation of international law. The first report was last March.

Some critics had said previous U.S. findings were based on flimsy evidence, but Monday's report said new evidence had been collected in 1982.

The report said Washington for the first time had "convincing evidence" of the use of deadly mycotoxins by Soviet troops against rebels in Afghanistan.

A mycotoxin is a poison typ-

ically produced in nature by a living organism, such as a fungus, and easily manufactured in large quantities.

The report said the evidence was based on analyses of two contaminated Soviet gas masks obtained in Afghanistan.

The report also said Vietnamese and Laotian troops "under direct Soviet supervision" were continuing to use lethal and incapacitating chemical agents and toxins against H'mong resisters in Laos through at least last June.

Vietnamese forces also continued using similar weapons against resistance forces in Kampuchea, it said.

'Canadian professor dined with Andropov'

LONDON (R) — A Canadian professor accused of being a Soviet spy for 30 years once dined with the new Soviet leader Yuri Andropov when he headed the KGB secret police, the London central criminal court was told Monday.

Hugh Hambleton, 60 professor of economics at Laval University, Quebec, denied two charges of passing North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) secrets to Moscow and of obtaining information which could be useful to an enemy.

The prosecution said Prof. Hambleton told British security officers he met Mr. Andropov at a dinner party in a Moscow apartment in 1975 and alleged the KGB chief asked him to get classified reports from the United States.

According to Attorney-General Sir Michael Havers, the British government's chief law officer, Mr. Andropov told Prof. Hambleton he hoped he could give a political and economic assessment of world trouble spots and offered to finance him to enter the Canadian parliamentary system.

"I got the feeling he wanted me to exert influence on behalf of Russia rather than spying," Prof. Hambleton was alleged to have said.

The prosecution said that when British interviewers suggested Moscow must have valued him very highly, Prof. Hambleton replied: "I didn't get a medal, but he thanked me for my services."

The professor was said to have expressed confidence it was Mr. Andropov he met. "He asked me general questions, for instance didn't I think the American defence budget was too high," Hambleton was quoted as saying.

Sir Michael said Prof. Hambleton was recruited in Canada by the KGB in the late 1940s and was for 30 years in almost continuous contact with Soviet agents all over the world but mainly in Paris and Quebec.

He passed on much classified information after joining NATO's economic and finance division in 1956. Prof. Hambleton told his interviewers he had handed over as many as 300 photos of secret documents over a four-year period while in Paris, Sir Michael added.

In 1979 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police seized sophisticated spy equipment in his possession. He was not prosecuted in Canada and came to Britain where he was arrested last June, the prosecution said.

U.N. argues about who discovered the Americas

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A row broke out in the United Nations Monday over who discovered the Americas.

The outcome was that the General Assembly put off until Monday a decision on whether to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the New World.

Columbus, hired by Queen Isabella of Castile, brought his tiny ship into San Salvador on Oct. 12, 1492.

But the Icelandic delegate complained that Norseman Leif Erikson set foot in the New World in the year 1000. Thus, if there was any celebrating to be done, the United Nations should mark his voyage in 18 years' time.

Irish delegate Noel Dorr said Irish monks had also travelled to the Americas before Columbus ever did.

Jaime de Pinies of Spain ret-

orted that Ireland's contribution seemed to have been to the police department of the city of New York. He said later he was only joking.

The row had the unexpected result of joining the United States and Cuba in supporting the resolution committing the world body to celebrating Columbus's voyage in 10 years' time.

The Icelandic delegate remarked it was perhaps the first time that the United Nations had been faced with a resolution that seemed to commemorate colonisation.

Latin American delegates replied that Columbus had been motivated by faith and ideals, and not a wish to colonise the Americas.

The Spanish delegate said his country had not sought to colonise the New World but to "merge its race with the indigenous people in the continent."

Moscow considers deadly 'launch on warning' option

By John Morrison

MOSCOW (R) — The semi-official Soviet news agency Novosti has suggested that Moscow would be ready to switch to a "launch on warning" military position if NATO deployed Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles in Western Europe.

Novosti said it had learned that Soviet military circles now believed the approach of a nuclear missile towards the Soviet frontier would "inevitably demand from the USSR instantaneous actions in reply."

Novosti, which teleaxed its story to Western news agencies in Moscow, said a new situation would be created by the planned deployment of NATO's 464 Cruise missiles and 108 Pershings from Dec. 1983.

The short flight time of such missiles to the borders of the Soviet Union "rules out the possibility of preventing a conflict, should one be started, by any non-military means," Novosti said.

"Faced with an infinitesimal warning time, the only possibility remaining is a nuclear retaliatory strike in retribution. There is no other alternative."

The Soviet article did not actually use the term "launch on warning," a strategic posture which up to now no nuclear power has ever publicly espoused because of the risks of starting an accidental war.

Under such a strategy, a nuclear power would launch its missiles from their silos as soon as early warning systems detected an incoming nuclear strike.

Most Western thinking about nuclear war is based on the idea that either side would have first to absorb a nuclear strike before launching a retaliatory blow with its surviving nuclear forces.

Western diplomats in Moscow said the Novosti article went much further than any Soviet leader has ever done in spelling out how the Kremlin might respond to the deployment of the Pershings and Cruises.

The article said: "A retaliatory strike would be carried out not only on American launch sites, but also on command points, communication centres and arms stockpiles, many of which are directly situated, as is well known, in densely populated areas of Western European countries."

Last July Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov wrote in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda that the United States would be unable to deliver a disarming first strike because of the "modern state of detection systems and the combat readiness of the Soviet armed forces."

The defence minister said that Soviet military doctrine, while defensive, was not passive, and Moscow would defend itself and its allies "without any hesitation."

In another Pravda article last year Marshal Ustinov said the highly accurate Pershing-2 missiles would hit Soviet targets in five or six minutes, forcing a substantial change in the strategic situation to which the Soviet Union would find an appropriate reply.

The Novosti article appeared to be timed to coincide with this week's meeting of NATO defence ministers in Brussels, and Western diplomats said it was aimed at scaring public opinion in Western Europe.

Moscow has been trying hard to thwart NATO's deployment decision but its hopes that Western governments will abandon it under pressure from public opinion appear to be fading.

Kremlin thinks again

Novosti is a Soviet propaganda agency whose ostensibly semi-official status gives it greater latitude for comment than the government news agency TASS or the party-controlled newspapers.

It is frequently used as a channel for floating ideas in the West without giving them the formal status of Kremlin policy.

Western analysts in Moscow believe that since the death of President Leonid Brezhnev on Nov. 10 the Kremlin may have begun rethinking some elements of its military posture.

On the day Mr. Brezhnev died the armed forces newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) began publishing what was announced as a series of articles on how to raise the "combat readiness" of the armed forces.

The first article said the Soviet armed forces must be prepared for a first strike by the new NATO missiles, which represented a "special danger."

The armed forces were told to increase their preparedness in order to "cut to the minimum the influence of the factor of surprise." But so far the series of articles has not been continued.

The Pershing-2, which made its first successful test flight on Nov. 19, is said by the Pentagon to be designed to hit Soviet targets within eight minutes of being launched from West Germany.

Cruise missiles are slower but because they hug the ground are hard to detect. The Novosti article said this gave them the same capability of carrying out a surprise strike as the Pershings.

Novosti said the Pershings and Cruises might be launched against the Soviet Union in a crisis provoked by "hawks" in Washington, or as a result of a "subjective human mistake" or a technical failure.

The Soviet Union was forced to take into account all these possibilities because even Western experts described the new Europe-based missiles as first strike weapons.

327 Polish internees released

WARSAW (R) — The Polish authorities have announced the release of 327 people interned under martial law, about a third of all remaining political detainees.

A brief report by the official news agency PAP said the decision to free the group was based on "further progress in the stabilisation of social life and the improvement in the state of security and public order in the country."

The last major release of internees was on Oct. 11 and involved 308 people. Lech, Walesa, leader of the banned trade union Solidarity, was freed from Solitary detention on Nov. 10.

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban said earlier this month about 1,000 people remained in internment introduced when martial law was clamped on the country last December.

Official statements have said they would be released gradually if the internal political situation improved and if the authorities did not consider them a threat to public order.

Hanoi in ideal position to attack

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnamese troops are in their best position to mount to dry season offensive against Kampuchean guerrillas since Vietnam invaded Kampuchea almost four years ago, according to military sources here.

They said Hanoi had in recent months rotated fresh troops into well-stocked positions close to guerrilla strongholds along Kampuchea's border with Thailand.

"In previous years the Vietnamese withdrew from the border during the April-to-November rainy season, when the monsoons favour guerrilla warfare," one source said.

"This year the Vietnamese dug in at the frontier throughout the rains."

They had staged a considerable troop build-up there, and while it was impossible to say what they planned, "they are much better poised to cause trouble to the guerrillas than they have been in the past."

Western diplomatic sources say the 20 to 23 Vietnamese divisions in Kampuchea in 1980 — each with 7,000-10,000 men — were down to between 14 and 17 this year, but this did not necessarily mean Vietnamese strength had been depleted.

"The reduction could mean both that internal security in Kampuchea had improved and that the troops had organised local citizens to be their carriers and movers, therefore freeing the soldiers for fighting," one source said.

"The biggest cause of casualties among the Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea is still malaria."

Thai forces are on the alert along the border, where Vietnamese artillery and mortar shells regularly fall on Thai territory, occasionally causing casualties and damage.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach stressed in

The brief PAP announcement Monday said the latest batch had been freed in the past few days.

More than 5,000 people were interned initially under martial law. The number fell to around 600 by August but rose again to about 1,000 after clashes between protesters and police at the end of that month.

The latest releases appeared to be a further step in efforts by the authorities to create an atmosphere of increasing normality in the country.

Western diplomats said the moves were linked with proposals to lift martial law in the near future.

Government officials have already indicated martial law will be abolished formally at a session of the Sejm (parliament) on Dec. 13 provided there are no disturbances before then.

Western diplomats said the freeing of the internees could also be aimed at creating a mood of conciliation in the country before some form of civilian rule is restored.

The release of all political internees has been one of the main demands of the underground Solidarity leaders and in a week-end statement they made it a condition for a "lasting truce" with the authorities.

Earlier this month the call was also taken up by a new government-approved political umbrella organisation known by its Polish acronym as PRON.

This led to speculation that most or all of the remaining internees will be released around the time martial law is lifted.

But in a week-end radio interview, a spokesman for PRON said it was likely the so-called state of war would be lifted in stages and some of its provisions would remain in force for weeks or even months.

Official sources have also indicated the post-martial law administration will be equipped with special powers enabling it to crack down on opponents in the same way as the present military leadership under Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court refuses Nixon's request

WASHINGTON (R) — The Supreme court has refused to grant former President Richard Nixon's request that the public be denied access to secret White House tape recordings made while he was in office. The former president said the plan by the General Services Administration (GSA) a federal agency, to release 6,000 hours of tape recordings at the end of 1984, violated his constitutional right to privacy.

Nurse's father fails to back up claim

LEEDS (R) — Ronald Smith, father of British nurse Heleo Smith who was found dead in Saudi Arabia in 1979, failed at an inquest into her death Monday to back up his claim that two men had murdered her. Mr. Smith interrupted the inquest in the northern city of Leeds last Thursday to accuse British surgeon Richard Arnot and French diver Jacques Texier of murdering his daughter. Mr. Smith was asked by coroner Philip Gill on Friday for evidence to support his claim. But after private legal talks Monday the coroner told the court Mr. Smith's lawyer agreed there was no question of a specific allegation being made against Mr. Texier, a guest at the party.

Athens moves to abolish dowry

ATHENS (R) — Greece's Social government has taken the first steps towards abolishing the centuries-old institution of the dowry. A draft bill to modernise the country's family law was introduced to parliament by minister of justice George A. Mavropoulos. It was described as an historic event and an attempt to bring about equality of the sexes and to reform legislation which had its roots in Roman civil law. Among the proposed reforms is the abolition of the compulsory dowry with which parents had to provide their daughters when they married.

Uruguay votes for democracy

MONTEVIDEO (R) — A wave of euphoria swept Uruguay Monday as results of Sunday's internal party elections showed the population's desire for a return to democratic rule. Crowds danced, sang and wept with joy in the streets of Montevideo until dawn as loudspeakers blared out the results in which a majority of opponents to the military government were elected to party congresses. The daily newspaper El Dia welcomed the results with the banner headline: "Democracy has triumphed."

Bogota politician's wife murdered

BOGOTA (R) — The Wife of a Colombian Liberal Party leader, kidnapped five months ago in Bogota, was murdered by her captors early Monday, police said. Gloria Lara de Echeverry, whose husband Hector Echeverry is a former congress president, was shot in the head. The body was found by police outside a church in the northeast of the city. Anonymous callers told several radio stations that Mrs. Echeverry had been "executed." Police said a black flag had been found on the body, indicating guerrillas rather than common criminals were responsible for the crime.

German police chief under suspicion

WEST BERLIN (R) — West Berlin's police chief for immigration has been transferred from his post under suspicion of giving illicit aid to Jewish migrants. Interior senator (minister) Heinrich Lübke said Monday. Mr. Lünner, a disciplinary proceedings had been started against Harald Holtzberg, head of the police immigration department for the last years. Mr. Holtzberg and Christian Democratic (CDU) politician Karl-Heinz Schmitz, who has been accused by local newspapers of irregularities in the processing of applications for residence permits.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Both vulnerable. South deals

NORTH

♠ J1074

♥ 97

♦ AKQ87

♣ 109

WEST EAST

♠ K62 ♠ Q853

♥ 54 ♥ Q62

♦ J9542 ♦ 1063

♣ J73 ♣ 865

SOUTH

♠ A9

♥ AKJ1083

♦ Void

♣ AKQ42

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

6 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♣.

In a perfect world, every-

one will be rewarded for his good deeds and punished for his mistakes. But life is at best imperfect, so people continue to reap bonanzas from their misdeeds.

Even though the competition was matchpoints, there is little that can be said in favor of South's decision to bid six on trump. At a heart contract, twelve tricks would have been a snap, and it would have served declarer right if East had held the ten of spades instead of dummy, in which case declarer would have had no play for his contract.

هكذا من الجمل